

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract attached on a separate sheet hereto.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A tire comprising:

- B2
- (a) a carcass ply based on metal cords and an elastomeric carcass layer coating said cords,
 - (b) an inner elastomeric layer which defines the radially inner face of said tire, thereby circumscribing the inner space of the tire, and which protects the carcass ply from diffusion of air coming from the inner space of the tire, and
 - (c) an intermediate reinforcement layer located between said carcass ply and said inner layer, said intermediate layer being formed from a composition comprising:
 - (i) a natural or synthetic polyisoprene having a majority of chains with cis-1,4 bonds and a copolymer prepared in solution of one or more conjugated diene monomers and one or more vinyl aromatic monomers, said copolymer simultaneously satisfying the following relationships:

$$(1) \quad D \geq 60 - 1.75 \cdot VA$$

$$(2) \quad D \leq 116 - 1.64 \cdot VA$$

$$(3) \quad D > 10$$

$$(4) \quad VA > 10,$$

wherein D is the amount of diene chains having a 1, 2 bond content (in %) and VA is the amount of vinyl aromatic chains (in %), and

β2 (ii) carbon black, in an amount of 25 to 85 parts by weight per hundred parts of said elastomer (phr),

wherein said carbon black has values of DBP oil absorption (in ml/100 g) and of BET specific surface area (in m²/g) which fulfil the following relationship:

$$\text{DBP} \leq -0.88 \cdot \text{BET} + 190.$$

2. (Amended) The tire according to Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises

(a) polyisoprene having a greater than 80% cis-1,4 bond content, wherein the conjugated diene monomers are selected from the group consisting of butadiene, isoprene and mixtures thereof and the vinyl aromatic monomers are selected from the group consisting of styrene, α-methylstyrene and mixtures thereof,

said copolymer satisfying the following relationships:

(i) $D \geq 66 - 1.58 \cdot \text{VA}$

(ii) $D \leq 124 - 1.71 \cdot \text{VA}$

(iii) $D > 10$

(iv) $\text{VA} > 10,$

wherein D is the amount of diene chains having a 1, 2 content (in %) and VA is the amount of vinyl aromatic chains (in %), and

(b) carbon black having values of DBP oil absorption (in ml/100 g) and of BET specific surface area (in m²/g) that fulfil the following relationship:

~~$$\text{DBP} \leq -0.88 \cdot \text{BET} + 185$$~~

Please add the following new claims:

B3 12. (New) A tire according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises kaolin.

13. (New) The tire according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the tire is a tire for a motor vehicle bearing a heavy load.